

TRANSIT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary
Thursday November 9, 2017

PRESENT: Mike Warner, Charlotte
Walter Horstman, Matthews
Chris Maloy, Charlotte6
Joshua Niday, Charlotte
Sherri Thompson, Charlotte
Louis Cosentine, Huntersville
Greg Hardee, Charlotte
Lou Raymond, Cornelius
Terry Lansdell, Charlotte
Kalan Pegg, Van Pool
Daniel MacRae, Charlotte

STAFF: Duretta Weicken, Pamela White, Krystel Green, Chris Lange

Meeting Time 4:00-5:30 PM

I. Call to Order and Approval of the October Meeting Summary

Co-Chairman Terry Lansdell called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.,
The October meeting summary was approved as written.

II. Public Comment on Agenda Items:

Welcome Larkin Eggleston representative elect from Dist. 1 and Scott Curry from CDOT

III. Information Items:

A. Walk2Transit Video

Co-Chairman Mr. Lansdell explained the Walk2Transit as videos from Sustain Charlotte that offers opportunity for the public to communicate their experiences in the process that interfaces pedestrians in transit. The committee watched a video with committee member Sheri Thompson showing her dilemmas getting to transit.

Ms. Thompson relayed that there had been no changes in her challenges getting to transit since the video was done this past summer. Ms. Thompson mentioned the sidewalks get torn up by developers and then it takes two years to get them redone.

Mr. Curry commented that the Walk2Transit effort was a partnership between Sustain Charlotte, CATS & CDOT to crowd source bus stops that needed improvements. And have already programmed some new sidewalks and pedestrian crossing projects based on the Walk2Transit input of transit riders and assured they will continue to work on projects.

Mr. Hardee asked Ms. Thompson if developers are tearing out sidewalks and then restoring them. Ms. Thompson stated the developers do restore the sidewalks but it takes years. Meanwhile people are walking in the streets.

Mr. Maloy stated there is an example of that at the South Blvd. and New Bern street area where the developer took out the sidewalk. There is an opportunity from the perspective of when those land development plans are being proposed that it is not just about the end results but it is also about that period of interruption during construction needs to be addressed as well.

Mr. Lansdell stated there is still an open comment on the UDO the Design Ordinances Associated with Charlotte's land use planning and we have an opportunity to be a voice in that as individual and as a group if there is an interest.

Mr. Hardee suggested a motion to present to that group the concerns. Mr. Lansdell suggested having a presentation from the UDO and the ordinances to help develop a comment opportunity. Mr. Hardee agreed and stated there usually is not this type of consideration for pedestrians when the talks for development begin. There is definitely an ordinance issue.

Mr. Lansdell asked if it is OK to move forward with an agenda item before we make a motion for the group. Mr. Curry suggested the request include the CDOT-Land development as well as the planning department. The committee agreed.

Mr. Maloy stated as the committee moves forward to keep in mind one other challenge that still exists which is City vehicles and other vehicles parked on the sidewalks as this could impede the flow of pedestrians as well.

B. Outreach Handout Information

Committee members received handouts via email prior to the meeting the handout was developed to help committee members with reaching out to public transit riders. Ms. Krystel Green of CATS marketing came to the committee to discuss high points of the handout when speaking with the public and what responses are adequate and compassionate to the needs of the riders. Ms. Green stated when responding to transit riders it is good to listen and respond with Envision My Ride information that points the public in the direction that transit is going.

Mr. Maloy asked what the timeframe is for both phases to be done. Ms. White stated that phase 1 will be completed in March 2018 with the BLE opening. Phase 2 is where we are now with our proposals and the feedback from the public on those proposals. We hope to have phase 2 wrapped up by the coming year. .

Mr. Hardee stated so there is still opportunity for people to interact with phase 2 now. Ms. White stated yes

Ms. Green stated that when CATS is having a public meeting if committee members would let the public know about the meetings. Also that CATS tweets a lot and encouraged the committee to re-tweet as well.

C. Art In Transit

Chris Lange of CATS Art in Transit presented an update on the Blue Line Extension artwork along the North corridor stating most of the artwork has been installed, there are fourteen artists, 577 art interventions, over four miles of art walls along the Blue Line Extension. Mr. Lange previewed the BLE stations artwork addressing artists, materials and themes.

Mr. Horstman wondered if there are QR codes about each piece of artwork so that people know what they are looking at. Mr. Lange stated CATS is in the process of developing an App that will include information about all the artwork. And there is more information on CATS website.

Mr. Niday wondered if there are signs at the actual stops about the art. Mr. Lange stated generally there is not signage for the artwork at the locations.

Mr. MacRae wondered what the material the glass is made of as he was concerned about vandalism. Mr. Lange stated the type of glass used is an etched glass made of laminated tempered durable materials. If glass is broken, it is replaced.

Mr. Lansdell stated there are different patterns for replacements and guidelines for bus stop shelters. Mr. Lange stated the CATS maintenance department gets everything replaced as needed.

Mr. Maloy wondered what the long term maintenance is for the overhead awnings as he is in hopes that CATS is keeping in mind how the coverings will look as they age and is in hopes durable long lasting materials are used on coverings in the North Corridor art to keep it looking nice. Mr. Lange assured those considerations have been imbedded during the design phase.

D. TSAC Elections Info

Mr. Lansdell reminded the committee members that in December there will be an opening for the TSAC Chairman position and the committee will vote on nominees. Mr. Lansdell encouraged members to consider running for the position and briefed the duties of the chairman and reminded members of the new 65% attendance requirements.

IV. Service Issues

Ms. Thompson stated there needs to be an update on the pay App. and asked that staff come and explain how to buy tickets through the app. as she has not had much luck with it.

Mr. Pegg wondered if there is a timeframe as to when the detour routes will be shifted back and that it is confusing with all the signs. Ms. White explained that if a detour becomes permanent the other signs will be taken down if they are temporary CATS facilities will remove the detour signs. Ms. White stated she would check with the facilities group to see what has or has not been done on all the changes that had adjustments.

Mr. Horstman stated the route maps at the stop near Johnson & Wales do not match the changes that were made from the last service change. Ms. White stated she would check into that.

Mr. MacRae wondered if there had been a replacement for the Safety & Security manager as there was a video on Facebook about the contracted security that was disturbing and gave false information. Ms. White stated there is an interim Security Manager but was not sure about if that particular video was brought to their attention. Mr. MacRae stated he would try and find the video and bring it to the committee.

Mr. Niday stated he would be updating the district reps as soon as possible because of the newly elected reps. and Council members.

Mr. MacRae wanted the committee to be updated on the new council members. And wondered when the BLE was scheduled to open. Ms. White stated CATS' is still in the light rail vehicles testing faze and there is still work being done along the track line as well as the punch-list for the finished parts. Mr. MacRae wanted to know if the committee will be able to take a ride before the opening. Mr. Lansdell stated Mr. Kopf thought sometime in January the committee may be able to do a ride.

Mr. Lansdell brought to mind the rail trail along the BLE from 9th Street to I-277 highway and wanted CATS to be sure security was present as lighting is intermittent and it gets dark very quickly the closer you get to I-277. Also Mr. Lansdell wanted to mention those who ride the light rail now have a different way to stow a bike on the train.

V. Chairman's Report

Co-Chairman Mr. Lansdell presented the report saying that MTC approved a resolution to continue the regional NCDOT Transportation Demand Management Program that enables CATS to qualify for grant funds. Jason Lawrence gave an updated on the LYNX Red Line public meeting program as CATS continues to conduct studies for the North and West Corridors. Also there was a Regional Transit Engagement Series update with Michelle Nance. Mr. Lansdell encouraged the members to review the MTC meeting notes on the Website for further details.

Mr. Cosentine wanted to know who makes the decision about the Red Line. Mr. Lansdell stated the MTC makes the final decision on the locally defined alternatives.

V. Manager of Operation Report

Pamela White CATS Service Planning Manager stated CATS is out providing information about Envision My Ride being very careful to let people know there are two phases. Phase 1 being the BLE & phase 2 being the proposals. Also CATS is still looking at a February service change that will be very small with no structural changes because of the March BLE opening.

The meeting adjourned

Next TSAC MEETING: THURSDAY DECEMBER 14, 2017